

Appl. S.N. 10/772,761
Amdt. Dated March 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of Dec. 20, 2005

138910-1

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2005 wherein claims 1-3, 8, 15-16, 26-27 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kiluk (US 4990893). Claims 10-14 and 31-45 are allowed. Claims 4-7, 9, 17-25 and 28-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. In this amendment, claims 1, 6, 15, 28 and 29 were amended and claims 4, 16 and 17 were canceled. Claims 1-3, 5-15 and 18-45 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

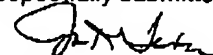
Paragraphs 0014, 0016, 0026 and 0034 of the specification have been amended and replacement paragraphs provided to correct for inadvertent typographical errors. Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the errors. Applicants respectfully request that the objections be withdrawn in view of the amendments set forth in the replacement paragraphs.

Claims 1 and 15 were amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 4 and 17, respectively. As such, the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) has been obviated. Claim 6 has been amended to provide proper dependency and claims 28 and 29 have been amended to more clearly depend from claim 15. Claims 2-3, 6-9, 18-30 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 15 and are therefore allowable by dependency.

In view of the foregoing amendment and for the reasons set out above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 20, 2006

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